

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things
and night was in the middle of its course,
your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded
from heaven's royal throne.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
splendour of faithful souls,
graciously be pleased to fill the world with your
glory,
and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance
of your light.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Wisdom speaks her own praises,
in the midst of her people she glories in herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the
Most High,
she glories in herself in the presence of the
Mighty One;
'Then the creator of all things instructed me,
and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.
He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob,
make Israel your inheritance."
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,
and thus was I established on Zion.
In the beloved city he has given me rest,
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people
in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 147:12-15, 19-20

Response:

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Or: **Alleluia!**

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you. (R.)

2. He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command. (R.)
3. He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual
blessings of heaven in Christ.
Before the world was made, he chose us, chose
us in Christ,
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love
in his presence,
determining that we should become his
adopted sons, through Jesus Christ,
for his own kind purposes,
to make us praise the glory of his grace,
his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about
your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that
you show towards all the saints, have never
failed to remember you in my prayers and to
thank God for you. May the God of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a
spirit of wisdom and perception of what is
revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.
May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that
you can see what hope his call holds for you,
what rich glories he has promised the saints will
inherit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ,
proclaimed to the pagans;
Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the
world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

(shorter form read between >><<)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John

>>In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.<<
A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
>>The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the
Father,
full of grace and truth.<<
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us,
received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through
Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus
Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's
heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make
on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son,
for by it you show us the way of truth
and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To all who would accept him,
he gave the power to become children of
God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

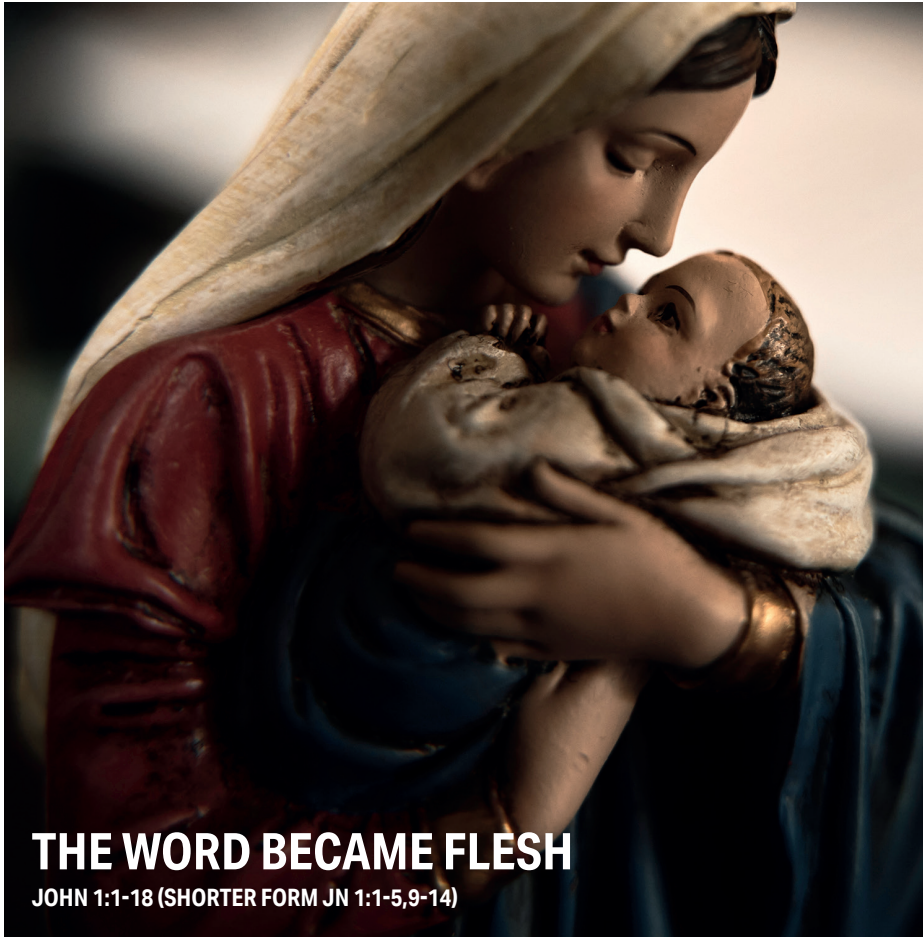
Lord our God, we humbly ask you,
that, through the working of this mystery,
our offences may be cleansed
and our just desires fulfilled.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

THE WORD

Year A • 4 January 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:1-18 (SHORTER FORM JN 1:1-5,9-14)

John's Gospel begins not with a story of shepherds or wise men, but with a great mystery: "In the beginning was the Word." These words remind us of the first line of the Bible — "In the beginning, God created..." John wants us to know that Jesus was there from the very start. He is the eternal Word of God — not just sent by God, but truly God Himself.

John says that everything was made through Jesus. He is the source of life and light for all people. But when He came into the world, many did not recognize Him. Some even rejected Him. Still, for those who welcomed Him, He gave a new gift — the chance to become children of God.

The most powerful line is this: "The Word became flesh and lived among us." God chose to become one of us — not distant or above us, but right here, walking our roads, sharing our troubles. In Jesus, we see what God is really like — full of grace and truth.

This passage is not just about who Jesus is, but about how close God wants to be to us. He doesn't shout from far away. He comes near — in love, in mercy, and in person. ■

REFLECT

"In the beginning was the Word." With these opening words, St John takes us beyond Bethlehem, beyond time itself. He draws us into the mystery of Christ — the eternal Word, who was with God, and who is God. This is no ordinary birth story. This is a proclamation: the Creator has stepped into His creation.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." God has come close. Not as a thunderclap from the heavens, but wrapped in human skin, lying in a manger. The eternal enters time, not to overwhelm us, but to walk with us — to teach, to heal, to weep, and to redeem.

Many missed Him. "He came to his own and his own received him not." That line echoes still. It's possible to miss the presence of God even in the middle of religion, even at Christmas. But, "to those who did receive him... he gave power to become children of God."

This Gospel invites us not just to admire Jesus, but to receive Him — into the clutter and complexity of our lives. In the Word made flesh, we see God's glory: not distant, but tender, truthful, and full of grace. Let us make room for Him — not just in church, but in our hearts. ■

SAY

**St. John, beloved disciple,
you saw the glory of the Word
made flesh.
Help me to love Jesus as you did,
to stay close to Him in light and in
darkness,
and to share His love with others
through gentle words and faithful
living.
Amen.**

DO

Take five minutes today in quiet prayer, thanking Jesus for coming close to us — and ask Him to help you see His light in someone you meet today.

LEARN

God became one of us in Jesus, so that we could come to know Him, receive His love, and live as His children.

